

29 June 1948

Lt. Colonel John D. Kenderdine  
Editor  
Army Information Digest  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Dear Colonel Kenderdine:

This is in acknowledgment of your letter of 7 June 1948. We are happy to hear that our article on the Central Intelligence Agency will be of use to you. Any changes in the text which you care to make, which involve rearrangement of the material or tightening up of the text, will be quite acceptable to us. We will be happy to assist you in such changes.

I am enclosing herewith a photograph of Admiral Hilleketter, together with necessary biographical information.

Sincerely,

SIGNED *Dir to ER 6-200*

CAPTAIN, USN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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*Pres Corres.*

REAR ADMIRAL ROSCOE HENRY HILLENKOETTER, U. S. NAVY

Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter, born in St. Louis, Missouri, May 8, 1897, was appointed to the U. S. Naval Academy in 1916. As a Midshipman, he served in the summer of 1918 in the USS MINNESOTA which operated with the Atlantic Fleet during the World War. As a First Classman he won the watch presented annually by Dr. Henry Van Dyke to a member of the graduating class for the best original article or theme on any naval or equally patriotic subject. He was also a member of the Academy baseball team. Graduated with distinction and commissioned Ensign in June 1919, with the Class of 1920, he subsequently progressed in grade until his promotion to Captain, June 18, 1942. His selection to Rear Admiral was approved by the President November 28, 1946. His date of rank as a Rear Admiral is March 4, 1944.

After his graduation, Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter served in routine naval assignments, including qualification and service in submarines. His tours of duty included one as an instructor in the Department of Modern Languages at the Naval Academy in 1929 - 1931. Subsequently he served in Nicaragua in connection with the disorders and elections in 1931 - 1932.

From November 1933 until September 1935 Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter was Assistant Naval Attache at the American Embassy in Paris, France. After further sea duty and a short tour in the Office of Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, he returned to France in April 1938 as Assistant Naval Attache at the Embassy in Paris, with additional duty as the Assistant Naval Attache at the American Embassy in Madrid, Spain and the American Legation in Lisbon, Portugal. His duties as Assistant Naval Attache in Madrid were of more than routine nature due to the problems in connection with the Spanish Civil War, then in progress.

In April 1940 he was designated Naval Attache and Naval Attache for Air at the American Embassy in Paris and was relieved of his duties in Madrid and Lisbon. He was later assigned additional duty as Naval Attache and Naval Attache for Air at the American Embassy in Vichy, France. This tour as the Naval Attache in France embraced the period of the German invasion of France and the fall of France, and the subsequent government of Marshal Petain.

Detached from that assignment August 30, 1941, Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter returned to the United States. On November 19, 1941, he joined the USS WEST VIRGINIA as executive officer and was serving in that duty during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, T. H., on December 7, 1941, being wounded in that attack which sank the WEST VIRGINIA at her berth. Transferred to the USS MARYLAND at Pearl Harbor on December 15, 1941, he served as executive officer of that battleship, damaged in the attack but repaired and returned to duty in the South Pacific in February 1942, until July 3, 1942.

Following brief duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter served as Officer in Charge of Intelligence on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Area,

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from September 1942 until March 1943. Transferred to command of the USS DIXIE, he served in that command until February 1944, with additional duty during that period as Representative, Commander, Destroyers, Pacific Fleet, in the South Pacific Area. For his services in command of the DIXIE during the Solomon Islands campaign he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with the following citation:

**Bronze Star Medal:**

"For meritorious service as Commanding Officer of the USS DIXIE during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands and New Hebrides from April 1943, to February 1944. Applying outstanding professional skill to the performance of his duties, Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter directed his ship in the servicing of large numbers of destroyers during long and arduous campaigns in these areas. By his leadership, determination and devotion to duty, Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Following detachment from command of the DIXIE on February 7, 1944, Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter reported March 14, 1944 for duty in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., serving as Assistant Director of Training, and later as Director of Planning and Control. For services in this latter capacity he was awarded the Legion of Merit, with the following citation:

**Legion of Merit:**

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Director of Planning and Control, Bureau of Naval Personnel, from August 15, 1944, to September 24, 1945. Responsible for the initiation, coordination and implementation of personnel plans, Captain Hillenkoetter rendered invaluable service in meeting the peak war effort's changing demands with the trained manpower necessary to man ships and stations, so that the attack was never stayed for lack of the basic flow of trained personnel. His breadth of vision and tireless efforts have been of inestimable assistance in handling the varying requirements of war and in carrying forward improvements in the procedures and methods of personnel planning and utilization. By his brilliant professional ability and steadfast devotion to duty, Captain Hillenkoetter aided in maintaining the greatest economy in the use of the nation's manpower and contributed materially to the successful prosecution of the war."

After the cessation of hostilities, Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter assumed command of the battleship, USS MISSOURI, in October 1946. Under his command the MISSOURI transported to Turkey in the spring of 1946 the body of the late Turkish Ambassador, Mehmet Munir Ertegün. At Gibraltar Admiral Henry Kent Hewitt, USN, Commander United States Naval Forces in Europe, boarded the MISSOURI and completed the remainder of her cruise, escorted by the destroyer USS POWER and the cruiser USS PROVIDENCE. The MISSOURI anchored in the Bosphorus, off Istanbul, where the body of the ambassador was removed and the ship was opened to visitors. After visiting the ports of Piraeus, Naples, Algiers and Tangier, the MISSOURI returned to Gibraltar and from there to the United States, arriving in Norfolk

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May 9, 1946. This visit of the MISSOURI to Turkey was the first visit to that country by a U.S. warship since the shakedown cruise of the USS CHESTER in September 1938. During this cruise, Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter was awarded the Order of the Phoenix, degree of Commander, by the Government of Greece, presentation being made at Athens on April 10, 1946, and was awarded the Order of Saint Maurice and Saint Lazarus, degree of Commander, by the Government of Italy, presentation being made on April 22, 1946.

Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter was relieved of command of the MISSOURI shortly after this cruise and on July 29, 1946, reported to Paris, France, for his third tour of duty there, this time as Naval Attache. His selection to the rank of Rear Admiral was approved by the President on November 23, 1946. Returning to the United States he reported on April 7, 1947, to the Office of the Secretary of the Navy for special duty. On May 1, 1947 President Truman appointed Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter Director of the Central Intelligence Group.

In addition to the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Purple Heart Medal. Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter has the Victory Medal, Atlantic Fleet Clasp (USS MINNESOTA), and is entitled to the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, the American Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. In addition to the Order of the Phoenix, degree of Commander, from the Government of Greece, and the Order of Saint Maurice and Saint Lazarus, degree of Commander, from the Government of Italy, he also has the Legion of Honor, Rank of Officer, and the Order of Maritime Merit, awarded by the Government of France, and the Medal of Merit presented by the Government of Nicaragua.

STAT His Official address is [redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, and that of his wife, Mrs. R. H. (Jane Clark) Hillenkoetter, is care of Captain G. F. Clark (MC), USN, Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Massachusetts.